

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An adaptive search method in feature vector space which can quickly search the feature vector space indexed based on approximation for a feature vector having features similar to a query vector according to a varying distance measurement is provided. The adaptive search method includes the steps of (a) performing a similarity measurement on a given query vector within the feature vector space, and (b) applying search conditions limited by the result of the similar measurement obtained in the step (a) and performing a changed similarity measurement on the given query vector. According to the adaptive search method, the number of candidate approximation regions is reduced during a varying distance measurement such as an on-line retrieval, which improves the search speed.